

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims as indicated below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1.-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A method for providing access to Parlay X web services providing WSDL interfaces, said services being deployed in the domain of a telecommunication operator, by software applications deployed in third party administrative domains, comprising the steps of:

providing a Parlay gateway permitting access to said Parlay X web services, said Parlay gateway comprising a Parlay framework, wherein said Parlay gateway is included in one or more servers deployed in the domain of the telecommunication operator; [[:]]

providing a set of modules separate from the Parlay gateway, the modules comprising service interfaces for said software applications, ~~the modules in said set and~~ acting as proxies ~~in order on behalf of said software applications~~ to perform requests for access to web services on the framework of said Parlay gateway ~~on behalf of said software applications~~, wherein the modules are included in at least one of the one or more servers deployed in the domain of the telecommunication operator; and

configuring the modules in said set for performing authentication, authorization, and execution requests on said Parlay gateway on behalf of said software applications.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, comprising the step of providing a further set of modules configured for implementing the behaviour of said web services once said requests on said Parlay framework of said Parlay gateway have been performed on behalf of said software applications by the modules in said set.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, comprising the step of defining at least one web service security protocol for ensuring secure interaction between said software applications and the modules in said set.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, comprising the step of providing a distributed processing mechanism enabling said modules in said set to interact with said Parlay framework in said Parlay gateway via said distributed processing mechanism.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said distributed processing mechanism is CORBA.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, comprising the step of providing a respective distributed processing mechanism enabling said modules in said further set to interact with said Parlay framework in said Parlay gateway via said respective distributed processing mechanism.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said respective distributed processing mechanism is CORBA.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of one of said software applications accessing a web service comprising the steps of:

said software application subscribing to a module in said further set corresponding to said web service; and

configuring the service properties of said subscribed module in said further set, wherein both said operations are performed by using the tools provided by said Parlay framework in said Parlay gateway.

33. (Currently Amended) A communication network for providing access to Parlay X web services providing WSDL interfaces, said services being deployed in the domain of a telecommunication operator, by software applications deployed in third party administrative domains, comprising:

a Parlay gateway permitting access to said Parlay X web services, said Parlay gateway comprising a Parlay framework, wherein said Parlay gateway is

included in one or more servers deployed in the domain of the telecommunication operator; and

one or more computer servers comprising a processor and a memory, wherein the computer servers are configured for hosting a set of modules separate from the Parlay gateway, the modules comprising service interfaces for said software applications, ~~the modules in said set being~~ and configured for acting as proxies ~~in order on behalf of said software applications~~ to perform requests for access to web services on the framework of said Parlay gateway ~~on behalf of said software applications~~, wherein the modules are included in at least one of the one or more computer servers deployed in the domain of the telecommunication operator, and wherein the modules in said set are configured for performing authentication, authorization, and execution requests on said Parlay gateway on behalf of said software applications.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) The communication network of claim 33, comprising a further set of modules configured for implementing the behaviour of said web services once said requests on said Parlay framework of said Parlay gateway have been performed on behalf of said software applications by the modules in said set.

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The communication network of claim 33, comprising at least one web service security protocol for ensuring secure interaction between said software applications and the modules in said set.

38. (Previously Presented) The communication network of claim 33, comprising a distributed processing mechanism enabling said modules in said set to interact with said Parlay framework in said Parlay gateway via said distributed processing mechanism.

39. (Previously Presented) The communication network of claim 38, wherein said distributed processing mechanism is CORBA.

40. (Previously Presented) The communication network of claim 35, comprising a respective distributed processing mechanism enabling said modules in said further set to interact with said Parlay framework in said Parlay gateway via said respective distributed processing mechanism.

41. (Previously Presented) The communication network of claim 40, wherein said respective distributed processing mechanism is CORBA.

42. (Previously Presented) The communication network of claim 35, wherein the modules in said further set are configured for permitting said software applications to access a web service by the steps of:

said software application subscribing to a module in said further set corresponding to said web service; and

the service properties of said subscribed module being configured in said further set, wherein both said operations are performed by using the tools provided by said Parlay framework in said Parlay gateway.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program product loadable in the memory of at least one computer and comprising software portions capable of performing the method of any of one of claims 23, 25, and 27-32.